HUMOR IN UNIFORM

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In war and peace, military life has its own rich stream of humor, as in the story of the Canadian Army private who was asked by a solemn board of officers what he aspired to be when peace returned. "All I want," he said, "is to be a returned soldier."

Here, gathered together in one booklet, are many of the anecdotes and stories this rich stream has provided for the pages of The Reader's Digest over a period of years. Whether or not you've ever known the sweet solicitude of a sergeant or been lost in the tangled thickets of military red-tape, we hope and feel you'll enjoy them.

Cartoons by Richard Zemnickis

An American officer and his wife stationed in Japan had a little Japanese maid, Kimi, who was devoted to their six-month-old son Repeatedly when they returned home late at night they found Bobby sleeping with Kimi in her bed. Not wanting the baby to become spoiled, they told Kimi firmly that Bobby must stay in his crib.

On their return the next evening, the parents tiptoed into the baby's room. He was sound asleep in his crib — and so was Kimi.

—Mrs. V. A. Mason

When a cute little WAC sergeant decided she wanted to quit the army, our major sat himself down to have a serious talk with her. "Tell me, Sergeant," he began, "what advantage would you have in civilian life that you don't have in the service?"

Her answer ended the interview. "I could date officers," she replied.

—Jeanne E. McPherson

An army friend tells me that servicemen, with characteristic shrewdness, have reduced the maze of army rules and regulations to three simple formulas: 1. If it moves, salute it. 2. If it doesn't move, pick it up. 3. If it's too big to pick up, paint it!

—George F. Williams

It was 3 a.m. and one of our largest transports was leading 10,000 soldiers. Snow was falling heavily and there was no singing or whistling in that crowd of heavily packed soldiers. Cold, scared, grizzly silent, they were shuffling unhappily aboard when something happened which changed the whole atmosphere of that sailing. A redheaded Irish boy halfway up a gangplank turned, cupped his hand to his mouth and shouted: "*Hey! Is this trip really necessary?*"

—William L. Stidger

In a men's clothing store a young corporal, assisted by a pretty girl, selected a civilian suit and tried it on. The girl looked him over critically, then gave her verdict: "You're still cute."

The salesman, thinking he was about to sell a complete wardrobe, said, "I suppose you have your discharge and are getting ready to be a civilian again."

"Oh no," returned the corporal. "My girl just wanted to see how I looked in civilian clothes before she made up her mind about marrying me."

—Helen Vis

A nurse in an overseas hospital fell in love with an officer patient, and they planned to wed the day he was released from the hospital. Not wishing to be married in her khaki uniform, she got permission to wear a wedding gown. After the ceremony the overwhelmed groom announced to all: "Isn't she lovely? This is the first time I've ever seen her with a dress on!"

"Isn't he handsome?" the excited bride exclaimed, "It's the first time I've ever seen him when he wasn't in pajamas!"

— Will Oursler, quoted by Walter Winchell

A navy physician on a battleship received from his fiancée a snapshot taken on a beach and showing two couples smiling contentedly while his girl sat alone at one side, forlorn and lonely. The accompanying letter explained that this was how she was fretting away the time until he returned. At first the physician was delighted, displaying it proudly to several fellow officers. That night, however, after studying it a long time in silence, he turned to his roommate. "John," he said, "I wonder who took that picture?"

— Robert J. Doyle, war correspondent of the *Milwaukee Journal*

A sailor wrote a friendly letter to a girl back home. She answered in a more-than-friendly manner. When he reciprocated warmly, a succession of increasingly passionate love letters ensued, culminating with the girl penning a missive of such high temperature that she thought surely her Romeo would be unable to outdo it. INFLAMMABLE was even stamped in red ink on the envelope. A few weeks later she received an answer — an envelope containing mere ashes.

— George W. Crenshaw

Two London charwomen were discussing the inconveniences of the wartime blackout. "But it's a necessary evil," said the proverbial Mrs. Malaprop. "Else we're likely to be blasted into maternity."

"'Tis so," said her companion. "But the worst of it is, we'd never know who done it."

—Helen B. Baldwin

The personnel manager asked the youthful ex-lieutenant what business experience he had. "None," was the reply. "I just got out of college when the war started."

"Well, what kind of job do you think you could handle?"

"Oh," breezed the applicant, "something executive. A vice-presidency, for instance."

The partner looked thoughtful. "I guess that lets us out," he answered. "You see, we have 12 vice-presidents already."

The other waved a hand nonchalantly. "Oh, that's all right," he said. "I'm not superstitious."

—John Bradley in *Investment Dealers' Digest*

An excited army recruit asked his company commander for an immediate furlough — his wife was going to have a baby. Permission was granted and, when the furlough papers were drawn up and the soldier was leaving, the officer asked casually when the baby was due. "About nine months after I get home, sir," replied the recruit.

—Lt. W. J. Furman

A soldier returned to camp exhausted after a week-end of Wine, Women, Women and Song. On the bunk that held his recumbent form, his buddies hung a sign: "Temporarily Out of Order."

—Pfc. James T. Shaw

Attu, the most western of the Aleutian Islands, is probably best remembered by those who served there because of its mud, its snow, its perpetual fog and its high winds. Heating our Quonset huts was complicated by the fact that the oil stoves were

continually being blown out by blasts of wind when the men forgot to close the doors.

The navy carpenters found a way to lick this problem and still observe military courtesy. On the door of their shop, in large block letters, was the sign:

SHUT THE DOOR, STUPID!
NOT YOU, SIR!

—Lt. Cmdr. R. G. Vliet

On my fourth jump as a paratroop trainee, a sudden gust of wind tossed me into an apple tree. I crashed through it and ingloriously landed on my rear. Divesting myself of my harness, I recovered my aplomb and swaggered into a nearby store. "I just come through your apple tree, Pop," I told the proprietor, "and lit on my rear without a scratch. I want a coke to celebrate."

The old gentleman looked me up and down. "Don't see what you got to celebrate, son," he said. "Been a whole family of baby robins flying out of that tree and ain't been a one lit on his bottom yet."

—David Paul George

In Korea one night, two soldiers were lying on their cots. One was gazing longingly at his collection of pin-up girls. After watching him for a while, the other said, "Try not to think of them as women, buddy, but as 92 percent water."

—Betty Unger

"You have never kissed so wonderfully before, Laura. Why is that — because we are in a blackout?"

"No. It's because my name is Vera."

—The Living Age

A newly arrived plebe at Annapolis unwittingly violated the tradition that Bancroft Hall should never admit a woman to its inner sanctum. He and his girl friend were undetected as they carried his equipment down a hallway and began stowing it in his room. But when he heard a military step approaching, it occurred to him that the presence of his pretty companion might not be regulation. Dumping out the contents of his duffel bag, he quickly threw it over her head and pushed her onto a bunk with orders to crawl into the bag as far as she could.

The midshipman stepped into the doorway just in time to detect the last wiggle of the duffel bag. He ordered that it be emptied, then directed the couple to the nearest exit with a harsh reminder that the incident would go down on the plebe's record.

It was a blue plebe who awaited his fate in the following weeks. But when he saw his first conduct report he gained new respect for the navy way. The one entry under misdemeanors: "Unauthorized gear in laundry bag."

—Richard P. Strader

Behind the flight operations desk, where pilots with furrowed brows struggle with triplicate and quadruplicate forms concerning weather, cargo, passengers and aircraft conditions, hangs this sign: "When the weight of the paper work is equal to the cargo capacity of your aircraft you are cleared for take-off."

—Bert Rockwood, Jr.

An Australian who spent a particularly rainy wartime winter in England was asked what he thought of the country. He looked out of the window at the barrage balloons tugging at their cables in the dripping sky, and replied, "Why don't they just cut the ropes on those things and let the place sink?"

—Edward Murrow over CBS

During the First World War, Marshal Foch's chauffeur, Pierre, was constantly besieged by his comrades with: "Pierre, when is the war going to end? You ought to know."

Pierre tried to satisfy them. "The moment I hear anything from the Marshal, I will tell you."

One day he came to them.

"The Marshal spoke today."

"He did? Well, what did he say?"

"He said: 'Pierre, what do you think? When is this war going to end?'"

—Lion Feuchtwanger, *The Devil in France* (Viking)

In March 1945, in Germany near the Rhine, our division had just taken a small town south of the Remagen bridgehead. A priest came out of his church and began talking with us. He pointed out that one of the twin steeples of his church was badly damaged. "And we had just completed the war repairs on the other steeple," he sighed.

"What damaged the first steeple?" I asked. "An air raid?"

"Oh, no," he replied, "It was artillery."

Since the Allied artillery had only that day moved up within range, I was puzzled and asked, "Whose artillery."

"Napoleon's" he answered.

—Maj. Nels A. Parson

A recruiting poster showed three eager-looking sailors. The first was saying: "I want adventure"; the second: "I want security"; and the third: "I want education." Underneath, a fourth anonymous salt had scrawled in emphatic penciled letters: "I want out!"

—Glenn Langlos

Ours was a medium field-artillery battalion that had been on MP duty in Korea before hostilities broke out. We were hurriedly training and girding ourselves for action, meanwhile requisitioning many items of equipment. But in spite of repeated requests, we did not receive essential radios and telephones. Finally our battalion commander, thoroughly annoyed, made out a requisition for 5000 blankets. The commanding general quickly had him on the carpet, demanding why on earth he had submitted a requisition for 5000 blankets.

"Sir," retorted our commander, "I've been requisitioning the radios and telephones that I need for weeks and I still don't have them. I thought if I got these blankets I could at least send smoke signals."

—Capt. Gunnar E. Anderson

As part of his combat training for Korea, a young air force captain was attending survival school. Asked by one of the instructors if he had ever had any experience in survival, he replied, "Oh, yes, sir. I was raised in a family with five sisters!"

—Donna Gooch

A young ensign was insistent that he must have leave. "My wife is expecting a baby," he told his commanding officer.

"Listen, young man," snapped the C.O., "remember

this — you are only necessary at the laying of the keel. For the launching you are entirely superfluous."

—Margaret Johnston

During our take-off on a training flight, as I was tightening a loose hydraulic connection, I suddenly saw that an engine was on fire. Wrench in hand, I turned, touched the pilot calmly on the shoulder with it and told him, "We're on fire."

He soon had us safely back on the ground, and a short time later I was modestly explaining my great presence of mind in a trying situation to an admiring audience. Just then two medics passed, carrying our pilot on a stretcher. Startled, I called, "What's the matter with him?"

"Broken shoulder," came the laconic answer.

—Les Black

In a Dutch garrison, the colonel finished his speech to the recently drafted recruits and asked if there were any questions. There was a murmur in the back of the room, and one voice was heard saying, "Bet you a guilder you don't dare." Then, amidst suppressed giggling, an embarrassed soldier came to attention and stuttered, "Sir, don't you think there are too many colonels in the army?"

There was a second of dead silence, and then the colonel replied, "There are indeed, soldier. What this army needs is one more brigadier general."

—Dirk M. Schroeder

The other day I asked a fellow airman, whose wife was expecting, just how soon the great day would be. "Don't know," he replied. "But if it ain't down soon, the doc'll have to bring it in on instruments."

—James T. Woodlee

A sergeant was going before a board for promotion. After numerous military questions, the chairman posed this mathematical query: "If you had $34.61 in one pocket and $15.73 in the other, what would you have?"

"Sir," the sergeant replied instantly, "I'd have someone else's pants on!"

He was promoted.

—Lloyd D. Larson

The navy captain I served as secretary loved wine, women and cocktail parties. It was a toss-up which he liked best. "I wish I had all the money I've spent on women in my life," he said one day.

"What would you do with it if you got it back?" I asked.

"Start spending it on women all over again," he replied.

—S. R. Keller

During a typhoid epidemic in Germany caused by polluted water, U. S. Army officials insisted that high standards of water purification be maintained. One order stated in full: "All ice cubes will be boiled before using."

—Capt. Willis E. Lacey

I had recently been discharged from the army when I met a buddy, still in uniform, who had served with me at the front. After a hearty exchange of greetings, I gestured toward the impressive row of ribbons on his chest. "What did your girl say about all your medals?" I asked.

"Well," he replied, "the first thing she said was 'Ouch!'"

—Joe Ryan

Guests in a Cairo hotel, hearing a scream in the corridor, discovered a damsel in negligee being pursued by a gentleman who was, to put it bluntly, nude. Later it developed that the impetuous Romeo was an English major who was promptly court-martialed. His lawyer won him an acquittal, however, by virtue of the following paragraph in the army manual: "It is not compulsory for an officer to wear a uniform at all times, as long as he is suitably garbed for the sport in which he is engaged."

—Mabel Dana Lyon, quoted by Bennett Cerf in *The Saturday Review of Literature*

"We would never do for infantrymen," commented J. B. Priestley, registering with other 47-year-olds for national service in wartime Britain, "but if you armor-plated some of us we might do as tanks."

—Bulletins from Britain

The aviation instructor had just delivered a lecture on the use of parachutes. "And if it doesn't open?" someone asked.

"If it doesn't open?" repeated the instructor. "Well . . . that, gentlemen, is known as jumping to a conclusion."

—Hugh R. Mullen

While I was an army nurse serving overseas in World War II, my mail sometimes went astray. One letter from home finally reached me in Australia after having been mis-sent to an isolated post in Alaska. On the envelope was the penciled notation: "Not Here —Dammit!!!"

—Margaret F. Otha

The drill sergeant was putting a squad of draftees through their first paces. Finally, exasperated at their uneven lines, he roared: "Whatsamatter! Don't you know how to line up? All fall out and look at the line you've made."

—*Pathfinder*

It happened during June 1944, when the press camp of General Patton's army was pinned down in a Normandy hayfield. Before dawn, I was awakened by the excited gabble of the patrol policing the camp. Their topic was a pungent, mysterious aroma which had flooded the area and which none of them could identify. Perhaps Hitler, maddened by reverses in the West, was starting a poison-gas attack? An alert was telephoned to an outfit trained for such emergencies.

As day broke there came the sound of an arriving vehicle. After a quick investigation, a new voice, disgusted and weary, snapped:

"So this is why we have to stumble out in the middle of the night, load a truck with gas masks, chemicals and impregnated garments — just because a dumb bunch of city wise guys don't recognize the smell of new-mown hay!"

—Richard L. Stokes

In a lecture to a group of Korean officers, Lieut. Gen. Bruce C. Clarke, at that time deputy commander of the U.S. Eighth Army in Korea, took two or three minutes to tell his favorite joke. His interpreter then quickly translated the joke, using only seven or eight words. Everyone immediately burst into hearty laughter.

After the lecture General Clarke asked the interpreter how he had been able to retell such a relatively long joke so quickly.

"Well, sir," the Korean interpreter replied, "I didn't think everyone would get the point, so I said, 'The General has just told a joke. Everyone will please laugh.' "

—Lt. R. H. Bellack

At one air force base the connecting hall of a large double-wing building has been converted to offices. Signs on the door of each wing leading to the hall read: "This is not — repeat not — a thoroughfare! Please use the doors at either end of the building for access to the other wing. This is an OFFICE! This is not a thoroughfare. When this door is opened, the resulting wind blows papers all over the desks and madness ensues! This is not a thoroughfare!! Please use the doors at the end of the hall. This is an office! Please!"

Below is written: "After disregarding these instructions, please shut the door."

—Major H. W. J. Hager

Following the loss of a leg in battle I was a patient in hospital. Like the others, I dreaded the too obvious sympathy of strangers.

One day I was in my wheel chair at the foot of a [illegible] bed, while the [illegible] was getting on crutches. As he [illegible] to the [illegible] I saw the sister or matron [illegible] and exclaimed "Oh, you poor boy, [illegible] your leg."

[illegible] looked down and set up his [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Bruce A. Tee

[illegible] a soldier was having [illegible]

[illegible]

Wayne Roe

[illegible] the producer of [illegible] another figure [illegible] Mister [illegible]

Kay Dick

The ocean was rough and [illegible] poor and [illegible] ship [illegible] of another [illegible] damage. The weather grew even worse, and ships of the

convoy became scattered over a wide area. Finally we received a coded radio message telling us where to meet the convoy. We changed our course and a few [illegible] there was a terrific crash. We had rammed the same ship a second time. Frantic, our captain signalled "AS YOU STAY AFLOAT."

"YES," flashed the other skipper. "TRY AGAIN."

J. A. Rademacher

A [illegible] on the firing range. [illegible] "Sir, I [illegible] was [illegible] I [illegible] for that too?" He [illegible] he would have to pay for [illegible]

[illegible] why the captain **always goes down with his ship.**

—Julie Costard

[illegible] for the [illegible] exams, and I [illegible] Navy Medical Center for [illegible] A [illegible] asking the [illegible] Washington [illegible] Navy Department [illegible]

A [illegible] asked "Did I say something [illegible]?"

"No. You [illegible] passed the psychiatric part of the [illegible]."

"[illegible] I'd [illegible] thing was just peachy [illegible] job."

"[illegible]," he said. "I would have had to ask you a few more questions."

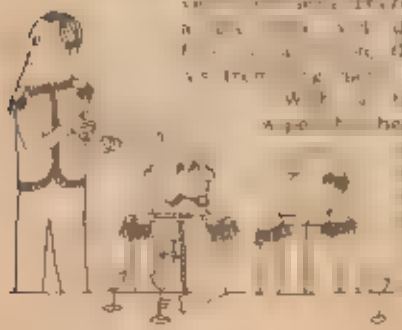
Bruce McCandless

An officer in the Royal Navy being considered for [illegible] wrote a letter to the Admiralty concerning his [illegible] attention [illegible] the official [illegible] or [illegible] some aspect [illegible] the one of the other is [illegible] and solemn. So when the following [illegible] the Admiralty [illegible]

As Their Lordships [illegible] there is [illegible] of whom [illegible] I shall [illegible] publication [illegible]

—Athena P. Smith

A [illegible] at the delivery [illegible] of the Luftwaffe [illegible] the messages to the [illegible] Airman [illegible] the [illegible] There was dead silence [illegible]



With a broad grin, Udet [illegible] head with a [illegible] The [illegible] son, that [illegible] happy.

—Walt P. Wenck

M[illegible] personal [illegible] A. Buchanan [illegible] Navy [illegible] so he UNO [illegible]

[illegible] Navy [illegible]

[illegible] of Your Corps [illegible]

2 Should delivery be much longer delayed, it [illegible] stocked for the [illegible]

The baby arrived two days later [illegible] a son Robert Arleigh.

—Mrs. Robert White

T[illegible] the [illegible] n, the [illegible] to [illegible] differ from [illegible]

[illegible] it's [illegible] But [illegible] I [illegible]

—Capt. William J. Brennan

In 1950 our ship was sent to a shipyard for general overhaul and repairs. During our stay there we had "change of command" ceremonies. The crew assembled and the old skipper, after a lengthy speech, turned the command over to our new skipper and left the ship. The new captain looked the crew over and said, "Men, before anything more is said, I would like to clear up one thing. This isn't my ship, this isn't your ship, it's our ship."

A voice from the crew muttered, "Good luck, sell it!"

Charles B. O'Connor

As [illegible] Allied invasion of North Africa in November, 1942, Commander Hunter [illegible] work and [illegible] Mission [illegible] the airport in Algiers. The [illegible] consisted of a concrete [illegible] on which 100 gunners [illegible] of [illegible] assembled.

[illegible] kept repeatedly [illegible] the way [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

During his tougher ng-up period in training my [illegible] Joe [illegible] to phone his mother long [illegible]. "What the [illegible] blank are you," the C.O. barked, "a sissy?"

"No, sir," he replied. "But my mom is."

—Mrs Robert C. Neely

The [illegible] at a [illegible] dance I [illegible] of [illegible] Red Cross was [illegible] couple. They [illegible] on the floor, and I searched all over town for it. [illegible] the supper committee decided on donating it.

A [illegible] note to [illegible] "[illegible] for the [illegible] of AA [illegible] party. It was [illegible] wholesome evening for the servicemen."

—R. R. McIntyre

When [illegible] was [illegible] in the Far East, the [illegible] of [illegible] was in [illegible] "Just fine, sir."

—Gayle G. Hall

The [illegible] friend worried [illegible] the [illegible] newspaper stories about [illegible] of her hero. "What have those Australians got that we haven't got?"

[illegible] he wrote [illegible] "But they've got it here."

—Eleanor Hope

When [illegible] tried to get a [illegible] room for [illegible] he [illegible] he was [illegible] He was [illegible] "[illegible] New York [illegible]," he said. "[illegible] haul all that junk [illegible] wasn't worried."

We got the room.

—Martha S. Arterburn

Flying over northern Quebec in an RCAF Dakota, we hit [illegible] jolting drop. As I grabbed on the deck [illegible] plate, I was amazed to see another airman who had been napping, [illegible] get up and head for the [illegible] chewing gum popped choppers back into my mouth, I grabbed the fellow by the shoulder and shouted that we were still thousands of feet in the air. As he resumed his seat he said sheepishly, "Migosh, I should've known that bump was too soft to be a landing!"

—LAC Don MacLean

On a navy patrol ship anchored in the Philippines a thunderous crash brought the captain racing on deck. The starboard rail was a shambles of broken wood and snapped chains, and the deck was a sea of potatoes. At the top of the mast, 60 feet above the main deck, a cluster of enlisted men were trying to raise it to the rigging. The captain ordered them below, then demanded an explanation.

"You see, sir," said one, "we had a bet Whitey was gonna jump off the top of the mast for 40 bucks, and A'van here said Whitey didn't gamble, so the side of one ship. So I figured if we packed off a hundred-pound sack of spuds and dropped the water on Whitey, we'd have no trouble."

The captain assured them that any man attempting to jump off the mast would suffer the same fate as the sack of potatoes, and that furthermore, no such antics would be allowed on his ship. "Where is Whitey now?" he demanded.

"Well, sir," said the spokesman, "he's fewer than [illegible] to my [illegible]. You see, Whitey don't know much with this here scientific stuff."

—Lt. Doc. B. Carroll

In spite of being urged to write frequent letters home, many a young G.I. during basic training at our air base neglects to do so. And so it was with such a man in the office after receiving this letter from his mother: "Dear Sir: I have not heard from my son for three weeks. If he is dead, please send his body to Route 1, Hugo, Oklahoma."

—K. W. Kinges

Fighting in Korea was intense that winter, and the Tokyo Army Dispensary appealed for more and more blood donors. Men in his unit were arranging to go to the blood bank when Sergeant Joe, a veteran of

many battles, some of them with the bottle, said he could use an appointment, too.

"Joe," the new sergeant answered, "they'd get 75 percent alcohol and 25 percent blood out of you."

"Then I just gotta go," Joe retorted emphatically. "Gotta what our poor guys in Korea need this wonder [illegible] and freeze."

—Patrick J. Henry

A short while ago I had an item published in Human [illegible]. It appears that everyone in this town of [illegible] "[illegible] must read the Digest because everyone in town knew about it, with the [illegible] results.

Income from article	$100.00
Less [illegible] expense	20.00
Gross Profit	$ 80.00
Sunday [illegible] small [illegible] made as result of my [illegible]	$ 53.00
These [illegible] were borrowed from my wife as [illegible] [illegible] wardrobe	1.00
Personal loan on two [illegible] I had [illegible]	30.00
New [illegible] my wife bought [illegible] of wardrobe	45.00
[illegible] goods sold my wife as result of wardrobe	24.00
Gross Loss	$ 63.00
Minus gross profit	80.00
Net Loss	$ 83.00

—Contributor's name withheld

One plane flying at about 16,000 feet suddenly began to descend. [illegible] A Canadian soldier sitting next to me leaned and said, "I beg your pardon, does the singing in my ears annoy you?"

—Larry Adler in *Variety*

When we went to see a young friend who had just joined the army we were [illegible] by the sight of some 3,000 [illegible] new uniforms and regular barracks. When we finally located our friend I asked him how it felt to be wearing a uniform.

"Aw, it's okay," he said, "except that I feel so conspicuous."

Mrs. Robert Branham

A young air force officer was sent to [illegible] to [illegible] or higher [illegible] [illegible] his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

S[illegible]tions Wanted ad in the Kokomo Ind Tribune [illegible] for air force [illegible] gunner desires [illegible] part of Al[illegible] Experienced on B-29 B-36 and B-[illegible] [illegible] systems can operate and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The story begins [illegible] 1938 [illegible] 20 miles from Vienna [illegible] Schwerdt's [illegible] was the parish priest [illegible] and his mother [illegible] after the [illegible] a [illegible] he [illegible] as an [illegible] The [illegible] took [illegible] of [illegible] Schwerdt [illegible] and they [illegible] Schwerdt [illegible] to have [illegible] refugees [illegible] Hungarian [illegible]

[illegible] 19 [illegible] Nazi [illegible] been [illegible] for years he [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] Hitler [illegible] Nazis were [illegible] I [illegible] It [illegible] of [illegible] he [illegible] I [illegible] had [illegible] I [illegible] of [illegible]

The [illegible] Schwerdt [illegible] with [illegible] of which [illegible] the [illegible] techniques [illegible] Schwerdt [illegible] the drawing [illegible] he [illegible] discussed

[illegible] the [illegible] Master [illegible] Bremen [illegible] the German State [illegible] but a large factor had been [illegible]

[illegible] Schwerdt [illegible] Mozart [illegible] for the [illegible] of the world [illegible] the [illegible] World [illegible] it was [illegible] by the [illegible] attempts

[illegible] his [illegible] IN MIL [illegible] ARTHUR [illegible]

The [illegible] to [illegible] Schwerdt [illegible] Hitler [illegible] Austria [illegible] Anschluss [illegible] Mozart [illegible] by the [illegible]

Mozart [illegible] of [illegible] Schwerdt [illegible] A [illegible] Mozart [illegible] of [illegible]

On August 24 Schwerdt left [illegible] Bremen [illegible] with the [illegible] he could have a [illegible] So he [illegible] a piece [illegible] the words HENRY [illegible] MA Schwerdt [illegible] new [illegible] stamp with [illegible] eagle and [illegible] several [illegible]

Respected [illegible] a [illegible] Leading Nazis [illegible] to shake the hand that had touched the

Führers. The Town Council gave a big party in his honor, at which Schmidt was asked to describe his visit.

"What did you tell them?" I asked.

Schmidt shook his head as if [illegible] seemed [illegible] said, "The [illegible] I [illegible] office with our [illegible] Führer. I [illegible] how Hitler had [illegible] towards [illegible] a father [illegible] he had [illegible] me his [illegible] across [illegible] as I had seen [illegible] I told [illegible] he had offered us [illegible] honorary [illegible] Were [illegible] asked [illegible] I like. [illegible] look a sort of [illegible] said, 'I suppose he looks just like [illegible]'

A [illegible] started [illegible] the men knew [illegible] I [illegible] asked at [illegible] I could [illegible] the [illegible] me, 'My [illegible] get in [illegible] secret telephone [illegible]'

Schmidt shook his head again. "It sounds [illegible] but they swallowed every word of it."

Two days later Schmidt met a classmate [illegible] who [illegible] Hitler [illegible] Führer. [illegible] went [illegible] guests were [illegible] Mein Führer.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Schmidt [illegible] He had to [illegible] for [illegible] Führer [illegible] steps [illegible] tourragere for staff

[illegible] look his rank. The clerk asked whether he had [illegible] Schmidt replied [illegible] he bought [illegible] hard [illegible] times. In [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] of the wrong [illegible] of the [illegible] I [illegible] of [illegible] I [illegible] the [illegible] A [illegible] the [illegible] F [illegible] which [illegible] F [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] Tank I [illegible] Kommando [illegible] Führer [illegible] get how [illegible] from [illegible] week he [illegible] I expect to see the

[illegible] in Berlin on Thursday or Friday and [illegible] this matter is straightened out, we will have to report [illegible] directly to him.

The Kommodore [illegible] look of the color of ranked [illegible]. He said he was [illegible] sorry, he had [illegible] known [illegible].

Kommodore [illegible] Hitler to report to [illegible] hours. And I wanted [illegible]

[illegible] hoped about to people [illegible] heard.

[illegible] 1938 Schmidt was [illegible] for the [illegible]. As [illegible] Kommodore Schmidt [illegible] Then [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Peter said [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] returned. [illegible] Berlin [illegible] December 22, 1938 the [illegible] Peter [illegible] from Austria [illegible] three [illegible] fast as [illegible] a [illegible] Hampelstein [illegible] Peters after [illegible]

[illegible] the end of the Christmas [illegible] the [illegible] office. There [illegible] the [illegible] commander [illegible] The [illegible] hard [illegible] Schmidt's character. Mr. dear Schmidt, he

said with a big smile. "Why didn't you tell us?"

Schmidt [illegible] cautiously standing at attention. [illegible] Then he [illegible] a copy of the [illegible] a desk. I wanted to favors, sir. I [illegible] like any other soldier."

The [illegible] has hands in delight. Another proof, [illegible] of the foresight of our Führer who singled [illegible]

[illegible] Schmidt. Everybody clicked heels and [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] Kommodore Schmidt [illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible] Schmidt said.

There was a [illegible] silence, then the [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] work. And you [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] barracks, he [illegible] Vienna [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] only for the [illegible]

[illegible] Schmidt was [illegible] and [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] them and point out [illegible]

[illegible] Schmidt said to me. But he [illegible] that he knew nothing of aircraft [illegible] persist.

[illegible] The general and a man of [illegible] should be made an officer [illegible] handled by Berlin and [illegible] Air Ministry started [illegible] the bubble would burst. He tried to play modest [illegible] the general and he had already

[illegible] memorandum to the authorities. It was this memorandum that caused Schmidt's downfall.

But for a while [illegible] was a big man at headquarters. Schmidt said [illegible] set up a more [illegible] office and the [illegible] in charge [illegible] and [illegible] After a while [illegible] so I thought [illegible] reserved ex[illegible] his wishes to [illegible] The job [illegible] good [illegible] I [illegible] with [illegible] of the [illegible] It [illegible] I [illegible] could [illegible] a more beau[illegible]

When I first [illegible] the general [illegible] operetta [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] he poor [illegible] would [illegible] have [illegible] took the [illegible] provided! You should have [illegible] the stars at [illegible] When my [illegible] I told [illegible] Stay [illegible] I assured her that no one would [illegible] here [illegible]

The [illegible] of Russian Schmidt came to an end on [illegible] 1944 when he was ordered to report at the general [illegible]

[illegible] a long [illegible] at the general looking flustered and [illegible] looking [illegible] of the I-Jewish Court. "[illegible] how you can [illegible] of [illegible] the general [illegible]

Schmidt [illegible] was [illegible] best [illegible] used [illegible] he said a[illegible] Major [illegible] the [illegible] A[illegible] know he [illegible] phone [illegible]

"That's not [illegible] The prosecutors have [illegible] up on you. You are under arrest. We know you are a spy."

"A spy?" Schmidt said, [illegible]bergasted. "The penalty for espionage was death."

He was [illegible] to the military prison in Florisdorf. I decided [illegible] was to save my neck was to [illegible] the [illegible] affair was behind [illegible] he told [illegible] I [illegible] was going to [illegible] I made a pas[illegible] wished that I [illegible] And now they say [illegible] that all I [illegible]

The [illegible] to [illegible] the next [illegible] at the [illegible] asked [illegible] to [illegible] of one half [illegible]

[illegible] the Luftwaffe [illegible] The [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] how he [illegible] thought she [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] The [illegible] A. The presiding judge [illegible]

[illegible] two hours. The [illegible] had [illegible] Schmidt was [illegible] of [illegible] four weeks of [illegible] "[illegible] of an academic [illegible] week [illegible] expecting the [illegible] of the [illegible] four months [illegible] of the defend[illegible] three months of preliminary [illegible] Schmidt [illegible] orders from higher up to keep the affair quickly, Schmidt said [illegible]

When Schmidt was released from military prison, he returned to the Luftwaffe and served throughout

[illegible] 1945 [illegible] for streetcars has received an Austrian patent.

A [illegible] we'd better go."

[illegible] in 1940," he said. "I hated the very sight of the [illegible] a vexed glance and walked out

[illegible] cleared his throat. "My wife's name is Helene," he said. "I [illegible] didn't marry Elsa. Shall we go?"

-Clark Tyler

A [illegible] was [illegible] of the [illegible] of the [illegible] He [illegible] on [illegible] Because the [illegible] was [illegible] of fire from the spark [illegible]

[illegible] to shut off the [illegible] and then we [illegible] he [illegible] A [illegible] was [illegible] for the [illegible] to the ship. I [illegible]

[illegible] he replied [illegible] sir I was [illegible] up a [illegible] sign!

-John T. Allgeier

M[illegible] the refusal of seamen to sail on [illegible] the British [illegible] the [illegible] of the super[illegible] [illegible] HMS [illegible] Friday.

[illegible] one other ship nor crew was ever heard of again.

-Our Navy

Our new medical officer, young and very green, was doing his best to ignore the baby blue eyes of his patient, the [illegible] service employee in [illegible]. With great dignity he prepared to give her a routine checkup, and in the process dropped his stethoscope.

"[illegible] she asked sweetly, enjoying his discomfiture.

Of [illegible] he [illegible] himself and his equipment. Now [illegible] he [illegible] in his most professional [illegible] deep [illegible].

W. W. Wight

[illegible] a [illegible] to sort. Lieutenant [illegible] the [illegible] of a [illegible] and [illegible] a [illegible].

"I don't know her exact size," he said, "but she's five [illegible]. He [illegible] most of her cargo on her upper deck."

—O. Wilma Murray

A fellow [illegible] and I were having equal difficulty [illegible] flight [illegible] I [illegible] wonder [illegible] subconscious. I was actually [illegible] off.

Don't you [illegible] he asked me. "I've seen you fly [illegible] you fly like I do. And to fly that way—and still fly—that takes guts!"

Gene J. Wright

Senator Spessard L. Holland of Florida received a letter from a private stationed in Germany asking "Is there anything or any regulations that says a private can't go out with a major's daughter?" The Senator referred the problem to the Pentagon and was able to write back to the private that there was nothing in regulations to stop him from dating a major's daughter.

Soon the Senator received a thank-you note from the GI with this postscript: "Now if you'll just tell the major about it, too, everything will be all right."

UP

During office roller skates an attractive young married woman was seen surrounded by admiring males, a [illegible] to her liking. But despite all her charms, he offers most her being bachelor [illegible] to her. Facts. A [illegible] at [illegible] asked [illegible]. "What's the [illegible] about a girl, Major Davis?"

"The fourth finger of her left hand," he replied [illegible].

—Jeff Holloway

A sergeant in [illegible] husbands' outfit preferred a good [illegible] to [illegible] money. One [illegible] asked him to [illegible] to his buddies why he refused to buy war bonds.

"[illegible]," he said, "[illegible] this way. I refuse to [illegible] my own [illegible]." He sat down amid a roar of friendly laughter.

Mrs. Ralph Schat

At a main intersection at an air force base, a huge sign board reminds passers-by of the need for observing [illegible] regulations. "[illegible] disposed there was

Deserve your aerials from above
As pots [illegible] make [illegible]
C-A-R-E-F-U-L-L-Y

—Mrs. W. H. Evans, Jr.

With each succeeding bombing mission to Munich in World War II the defenses seemed to grow stronger. On our third run the flak was worse than ever. As we began [illegible] our run our B-17 was hit. A [illegible] traced its way from No. 3 engine [illegible] the wing [illegible] the space. The batteries [illegible] the fuselage were ruptured and the [illegible] carried [illegible] the gunner to abandon his position.

The [illegible] chatter over the telephone ceased and there was a freezing silence. Suddenly the phone came alive. "Waist gunner to engineer, waist to engineer, [illegible]."

In the split [illegible] took me through to find the [illegible] Fire [illegible] look.

I [illegible] on the button and said, "Engineer go ahead."

A quick [illegible] look over. Hey buddy, how the heck do you begin a letter of explanation?

—G. A. Windfield

At an army base the mess sergeant had painted [illegible] grass outside the [illegible] hut. But try as he would, he [illegible] could not keep the men off the grass in desperation beside the [illegible] three by four [illegible] Keep off the Grass" sign he placed a large sign about four feet square. An artist painted on the [illegible] sign with a warning: DON'T TRIP OVER THE SIGN.

—James D. Andrews

When an attractive and shapely young WAVE lieutenant arrived at a naval staff unit in Tokyo, the delighted sailors promptly suggested a new rank for her: "Rear Admiralette."

—Donald L. Gossett

As a [illegible] I had to see that the [illegible] rooms were kept clean and he [illegible] Once [illegible] the door [illegible] CHICKENS [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] me. He [illegible] I had [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

For some time I had dated two air force sergeants, Mike and George. Then for no apparent reason Mike suddenly dropped me. Later I ran into him in the service club and asked what had happened.

"Oh," he replied, "I can't call you any more or even dance with you. You see, I lost you to George in a poker game."

—Mrs. D. D. McNew

An army sergeant who had a remarkable record for getting volunteers reported to the chaplain's office with a whole platoon of eager volunteers for an unpleasant task. Asked the secret of his success, the sergeant said, "It's very simple, sir. I just volunteered what would happen if they didn't."

—From an editorial in
The War Street Journal

The wind was whipping around our destroyer at 50 knots and the water was sweeping across the deck. Suddenly one of our lookouts, who had been dragged overboard and had been washed back aboard, was almost instantly in a high fever and delirious. Next to see it was the hurling water greeted the boatswain's mate's body and brought him aboard.

When we got them aboard and the victim began to breathe again, I noticed that his rescuer was shivering so hard that I could have sworn he was shaking the whole ship. "Why don't you go below and hit the sack?" I asked. "You'll freeze to death standing there like that."

"Oh, I'm n-not c-c-cold, sir. I'm just so scared."

"But you just gave a superb exhibition of bravery. You can't be scared."

"B-but — but, s-sir," he said, "I c-can't swim!"

—Contributor's name withheld

The last thing jet pilots driving their cars out of the Naval Air Station in St. Louis, Mo., see is this sign: ENTERING DANGER AREA. PUBLIC HIGHWAY. GOOD LUCK.

—M. C. Pierce

Col. Charles R. Codman, who served as Gen. George S. Patton's aide, tells about the time they were charging into Germany when he, man of blood and guts, was interrupting his campaign to flirt in the friendliest manner with two young ladies [illegible] and, by the roads de Reims.

[illegible] the [illegible] Patton.

[illegible] the grease-ape of the Autobahn.

"What the [illegible] do you mean by fraternizing with those Germans?" the other thundered. "[illegible] general wants to know."

The [illegible] of the American citizen soldiers disengaged himself from his share of the conquest.

"[illegible]," he said. "These are two Russian ladies who have lost their way. We are trying to earn their language so as to direct them properly."

[illegible] Patton's scowl at two he was [illegible]. Finally he turned and got back into his car. "Okay," he said. "You win. That's really a new one."

From Charles Poore's New York Times review of Dear Amanda, Little Brown.

A censor in World War I in France told me about reading past a letter written by one of the men to his wife back home.

"Stop those nagging letters. You are 3000 miles away and it didn't do no good. Do let me enjoy this war in peace."

Harry Emerson Fosdick, The Living of These Days, Harper.

The captain of a ship I was on in World War II had a reputation for [illegible] and such confusing orders that he was referred to [illegible] the [illegible] as [illegible] Brooke [illegible] [illegible] trying to back [illegible] [illegible] he was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] came the plea

For God's sake [illegible] up your [illegible] We're 14 signals behind already'

M W [illegible]

[illegible] MP [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

On airborne maneuvers a friend of mine made [illegible] jump was lower off course and missed the target area [illegible]. As he drifted lower under his chute's white canopy he saw a [illegible] in the trees and [illegible] for [illegible] as best he could. In the [illegible] were a cabin and about a [illegible] hybrid of assorted ages. The oldest, seeing my [illegible] drifting down under his white cloud, ran for the house shouting, "Paw! Paw! Git the shotgun! The stork's bringing 'em full-grown now!"

—Sheldon D. Goldstein

In training in England I had a young corporal as a wireless mate. Although his body was armed with fewer than a dozen [illegible] of pneumonia he retained his sense of humor. In an attempt to find an antidote which would defeat the [illegible] the doctors prescribed countless injections administered in the [illegible] fleshy place. Every four hours around the clock he got shot.

One morning the nurse rolled him over, exposed the target, then roared with laughter. Affixed to his backside on a strip of adhesive tape were the words "ANOTHER [illegible] END SHOT TO HELL."

—Andrew J. Oth

A shiny new second lieutenant was standing in front of a cigarette machine going through his pockets looking for the right change. Just then a young noncom walked by. "Say, a man," asked the lieutenant, "do you have change for a half?"

"Yeah, I believe so," said the airman, reaching for his pocket.

"A man, is that the way you address an officer?" barked the lieutenant. "Now, let's try that again. Do you have change for a half?"

"No, sir," was the snappy reply.

Delmer M. Morris

One day at a naval hospital where I was stationed as an X-ray [illegible] a young seaman formally asked for an X-ray of his chest. I asked the boy for his [illegible]

"I don't have one," he said. "I wanted the X-rays for myself."

Surprised at the request, I asked what he wanted to do with the pictures of his chest.

"Well," he said, "it's my girl's birthday and I just want to show her my hearts in the right place."

—R. J. Gonzalez

An officer on a class at a naval gunnery school had made himself unpopular in connection with giving a test by [illegible] questions. He delighted in telling about how many girls he had scattered around the world. This [illegible] the morning that he announced he'd become engaged the night before and would soon be married. "I wonder," he mused, "how many girls are going to be disappointed?"

A thick hesitation on an officer voiced the sentiments of the entire group. One, he said, "Only one!"

—Bob Womack

When [illegible] stationed at [illegible] Johnston Island, [illegible] Hawaii many of the [illegible] enjoyed [illegible] Many of them [illegible] octopus. There were [illegible] hanging [illegible] the Hawaiians [illegible] before [illegible] IF I NEED WASH ANY MORE OCTOPUSES IN THE BEND YES

Mrs. Rayden C. Floyd

After two and a half years [illegible] our battery [illegible] getting [illegible] "[illegible] of [illegible] with the [illegible] "[illegible] boys a [illegible]"

Kenneth W. Roberts

In a [illegible] a petty officer was [illegible] a friend about [illegible] After [illegible] If it's too [illegible] and [illegible] it's too small, [illegible] it.

Lt. Comdr. Hilliard H. Huggins

A soldier called his commanding officer to request an extension of his and his [illegible] leave. Johnson wants ten more days because he's getting married and wants to go on a honeymoon, he explained. "And I want 15 more days."

He was asked why he wanted the 15 days. "I'm getting married too," he replied, "and I need the extra five days to find a girl to marry me."

Contributor's name withheld

Our destroyer was checked for a long [illegible] cruise after [illegible] in foreign waters. When the crew [illegible] officers were [illegible] with re[illegible] personnel [illegible] But [illegible] what appear was [illegible] I don't want to leave [illegible]

Lt. E. B. Clark

The instructor was [illegible] a class on [illegible] self [illegible] "[illegible] you with a knife."

[illegible] he replied.

Dr. Robert F. Zeale

After [illegible] group of off[illegible] "[illegible] Navy [illegible] are [illegible] for [illegible] staff."

[illegible] "[illegible] Lay on, God's staff, and [illegible] comes [illegible] easier to [illegible] I'm not moving."

[illegible] H. Morgan, [illegible] U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings

On our return trip from Germany my wife, three children and I were flying from Ireland to Newfoundland when our plane lost an engine. The pilot decided to return to Ireland. Since most of the dependents were asleep, there was no panic. My wife, who was awake and sitting on the side overlooking the engine that had stopped, remained calm. After we landed I congratulated her for not showing any alarm.

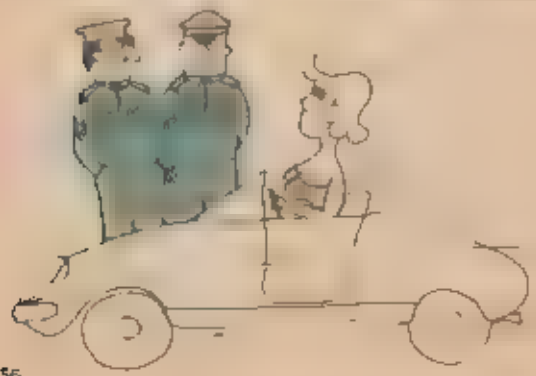
"Oh, my gosh," she exclaimed, turning pale. "I thought they just turned it off to save gas."

—Herbert M. Jeffrey

We were waiting behind two young airmen at a busy street corner when a bright red sports car passed, followed by a strikingly dressed woman obviously intent on attracting the boys' admiration. As the airmen's gaze followed the car through the intersection, one remarked: "Now there's the car I've always wanted."

"If you can have the car," said the other airman, "I want to go where it's warm."

—R. K. [illegible]



It was a quiet game of chess in the officers' club [illegible] the young captain pointed out an illegal move to his opponent, the commandant. The general [illegible] disagreement and soon several [illegible] showed [illegible] disapproval. But the captain [illegible] stuck to his guns.

[illegible] the general said, as he dropped a [illegible] chess piece, "I yielded in [illegible]."

"You were right, sir," [illegible] the general with a grin.

"Wrong!" [illegible] "[illegible] as the general says."

[illegible] the [illegible] chess piece [illegible] sprang to our defense.

—Bob Hardin

One of the [illegible] who [illegible] a long [illegible] we got to New [illegible] the [illegible] first [illegible] next [illegible] found [illegible] mother. A great [illegible] showed [illegible] there were [illegible] make [illegible] a [illegible].

—Col. John J. Prause

In Cologne, Germany, the British military hospital was located [illegible] from the Japanese [illegible] area and a special [illegible] was run [illegible] the British [illegible] to take exercise and [illegible] for their weekly check-up. The [illegible] conveyance: The Blunder Bus.

—Jo Hunter Stewart

I was a scorching day the first time I attempted the genuine art of gold cracking. A kind mineral [illegible] was planned. I stuffed a book into my pocket, [illegible] the company [illegible] shade trees and spent a pleasant afternoon [illegible]

A [illegible] I quickly fell in with them [illegible] the company [illegible] during the [illegible] I was sure the game was up and that I was in for at least [illegible] the company I [illegible] doing anything wrong today.

—Charles W. Pahnowsch

In some training, we were constantly told by the [illegible] we were [illegible] wrong and [illegible] told, "You're not supposed to think!"

[illegible] week [illegible] got [illegible] enough to ask a sergeant how [illegible] supposed to think. "Son," he said, "when you learn that, you'll be a general!"

—John A. Healy

A particularly scruffy private in my platoon was forever being [illegible] the sergeant [illegible] the state of his [illegible] the sergeant [illegible] I don't but please weed it now and again.

—Frank O. Ellis

When I reported for duty with the 90th Bombardment Squadron in 1944 on the island of Bink, which is off the New Guinea coast very close to the equator and very hot, I noticed a large group of men [illegible] who the [illegible] of an [illegible] and that [illegible] why the [illegible] take [illegible] As the [illegible] I became more [illegible] of attacking is, the [illegible] made a greatest landing and everybody [illegible] it.

[illegible] the weeks [illegible] for the Group up to [illegible] feet for an hour to cool it off.

—Donald Hough

Halfway around the world Major James Beardsley reports one of the B-52s of the historic bombstop flight slowed down to allow the tanker plane to get in position behind it. Refueling in the air is a tricky proposition and the crew of the B-52 was a bit nervous. B[illegible] as the refueling boom was lowered and got close to the plane [illegible] vanished. At the end of the boom was a sign: "We Give Trading Stamps."

—Donald W. Stewart

D[illegible] primary training with the RCAF I was flying a night trainer when I had an uncomfortable close shave with another plane. M[illegible] and I were [illegible] shaken up we landed safely but a bit [illegible] forgotten [illegible] when [illegible] the attacks that evening. There I found a [illegible] tipped to the wall above my desk. A [illegible] soon could spell [illegible] whole [illegible]

—Michael Wetherley

After a three-year tour of [illegible] duty Pat was asked to [illegible] the Marines [illegible] as a test [illegible]. A [illegible] was [illegible] and Marine [illegible] who [illegible] in the Corps. Pat [illegible] papers and [illegible] his [illegible]

[illegible] Hey, L[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] Three [illegible] out the [illegible]

—Joseph B. Doran

We [illegible] hotly contested baseball [illegible] looked [illegible] asked [illegible] Now he [illegible] the [illegible] second.

[illegible] the [illegible] he [illegible] stepped [illegible] A [illegible] snapped a [illegible] back [illegible] and [illegible] the catch.

—Cpl. Bill O'Brien in *Time*

Having posted a recruit on guard duty at the entrance to an [illegible] swimming pool, one night, I [illegible] back [illegible] to check up. I instructed him to read the [illegible] prohibiting the use of the pool [illegible] displayed at the entrance. [illegible] Corporal, he said, [illegible] for [illegible] one or a Friday night.

[illegible] of the nearby [illegible] board released the rule [illegible] A [illegible] A [illegible] and [illegible] to officers and their ladies.

—Marshall [illegible] in *United States News*, [illegible] Proceedings

T[illegible] boxing team [illegible] a high [illegible] hard and with [illegible]

[illegible] "You poor guy," said the [illegible]

[illegible] gave the boxer "I gotta [illegible] I [illegible]

The Wall Street Journal

Martha Raye was visiting an army camp [illegible] As they [illegible] be packed [illegible] and as the [illegible] Stick out your [illegible] Martha Raye [illegible] once [illegible] out. [illegible] over.

—Henry D. Riddell

The first part of this I [illegible] the [illegible] When I was a [illegible] War I [illegible] of [illegible] with [illegible]

Before [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

"[illegible] Air [illegible] taking an [illegible]

Navy [illegible] but Admiral [illegible] with a [illegible]

G. J. O.

We were [illegible] stand [illegible] the equator during World War II. The [illegible]

[illegible] were [illegible] on the beach, and our platoon [illegible] Hour after [illegible] through the beach sand, our sweaty [illegible] with the weight of [illegible] A group of Pollywogs [illegible] in the [illegible] We [illegible] as Each [illegible] passed the [illegible] the [illegible] I must [illegible] Shipped [illegible] man [illegible] A [illegible] I said to him [illegible] that [illegible] be explained. When [illegible] about [illegible] I [illegible]

D. Mitchel

While [illegible] North Africa, our detachment [illegible] officers [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] and [illegible] me.

A [illegible] and a [illegible] away [illegible] the [illegible] The [illegible] was [illegible] at [illegible] and with [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] would be [illegible] His date of departure was the day before the party.

Jim Bacon

Two doors away from us when we lived on an [illegible] was a [illegible] young wife who frequently appeared in her yard dressed in very short [illegible] and [illegible] Coming out of my quarters one day, I noticed that she was working in her garden [illegible] While getting in [illegible] I opened my car door and got into [illegible] to my office. Reaching [illegible] I [illegible] much to my dismay and to the amusement of my wife who happened to be looking out the window [illegible] that I was sitting in the back seat.

Col. A. T. Leonard

As I sat next to a WAF officer waiting for a meeting to begin, I was reading an article in a news magazine describing the difficulties the army and the navy were having in increasing the regulation height of their female members' heels. Pointing to the article to the WAF I asked "How high do you like your heels?"

"Oh," she replied, "about six feet two."

—Maj. Richard R. Thomas, Jr.

My first week of basic training was about 48 hours old when I was herded along with 20 other trainees into a long wooden building. Behind us our sleeves, said a kind-faced nurse. We did, and one by one we were called into an inoculating room.

Finally it was my turn. I started in cautiously but executed a sharp about-face when I caught sight of a huge picture of a scorpion as big as a beagle. For a moment I enjoyed the view, wondering why such a picture was going to a place so drastically military.

I was still wondering when I felt two quick jabs in my left arm. I whirled in surprise to see the nurse holding two hypodermic needles.

"In the army," she said smiling, "we call it diversionary tactics."

—Thomas E. Longenfeld

During World War II I was with a group assigned to training in intelligence work. We were pretty smug at the prospect of joining such a top-drawer outfit as intelligence. Disillusionment came quickly, however. On the first day of training the instructor began his lecture by saying, "Gentlemen, the encyclopedia lists intelligence under three headings—human, animal and military." After a short pause he added, "in that order."

—R. H. Mathews

"The Best April Fool's Joke I Ever Pulled"

By [illegible] Lubbock
Author of "All the Ships at Sea," "Last Cruise," etc.

I was the [illegible] April 1939 [illegible] destroyer [illegible] Marian B. [illegible] Was [illegible] the explosion returned to the ship [illegible] said the [illegible] April [illegible] chance [illegible] get [illegible] at the old buzzard."

I should [illegible] Saxon. No [illegible] had a [illegible] for [illegible] April we [illegible] put [illegible] suggested [illegible] The [illegible] dod [illegible] the propeller but

[illegible] so that [illegible] the [illegible] stumbled ashore the [illegible] off and [illegible] admiration.

"[illegible] I felt [illegible]

"[illegible] owned a [illegible] he [illegible] the [illegible]

"[illegible] about how [illegible] Then [illegible] I was [illegible]

"[illegible] from [illegible] Chungking [illegible] was one [illegible] where [illegible] were not [illegible] and where one [illegible] crazy on [illegible]

"[illegible] the [illegible] I [illegible] Mr. [illegible] CHINA [illegible] ILA

"[illegible] Mr. [illegible] sitting [illegible] and working [illegible] a [illegible] star [illegible] There [illegible] sending [illegible] to Chungking on [illegible] other [illegible] And [illegible] the deck with [illegible] a [illegible] in a [illegible]

"They [illegible] to [illegible] Can [illegible] be [illegible] aware [illegible] when [illegible] Mr. [illegible] for Mr. [illegible] stumbled ashore [illegible] morning [illegible] to the ship for [illegible]

He looked like a beater man and he didn't dig into

the food with his normal relish. "It's a lousy break," he said. "My wife cries when I toss her. She loves [illegible] here. But the normal fear of dust in Chungking is a [illegible] and there's no getting out of it, so I decided to send the [illegible] back to the States."

"[illegible] I [illegible] working [illegible] right," the captain continued. [illegible] a [illegible] red handkerchief, [illegible] to [illegible] to [illegible] chung. He smiled [illegible] glorious effect. "I [illegible] this morning to [illegible] and also bought the house. A [illegible] of [illegible] name, a $1,000 [illegible]." He [illegible] a [illegible] check for $17,200 from a real estate [illegible]

"[illegible] transport [illegible] Manila for six weeks [illegible] Mary [illegible] on [illegible] the [illegible] book by [illegible] They sail day [illegible] at the Jefferson. Manila. He had four [illegible] in the [illegible] The novels are rolling [illegible]

"We were [illegible] to see our ship [illegible] had to [illegible] When [illegible] we sailed out. Apes [illegible]?

"The [illegible] kept on [illegible] of worse orders [illegible] but the [illegible] Harris [illegible] short notice. I [illegible] the [illegible] and he's sent [illegible] to Washington.

"The [illegible] what [illegible]

"He [illegible] of protest to the Chief of the Bureau [illegible] orders [illegible] were made [illegible] regular and that he [illegible] first.

"[illegible] day. The executive officer [illegible] take. Well, said the Old Man, [illegible] And he too got up.

"[illegible] stood in the door [illegible] shots and a surprise. [illegible] I [illegible] stunned. About [illegible] orders [illegible] part.

"[illegible] Of course we'll have a party! And [illegible] a pistol! We'll start at the Army Navy

Club and then move over to the Manila Hotel."

"No, sir," I said. "You've misunderstood me. Your orders [illegible] to be going [illegible] those photos. It was an April Fool's joke."

The carrier stamped across the cabin and placed his nose [illegible] mine. "Mister," he said, "did I wear you out?"

"Y-y-yes, sir," I said.

He sat down suddenly on the edge of his bunk and [illegible] on the house [illegible] arrangements to send me home. And I [illegible] something up he wants [illegible] to the Navy Department. Do you know the penalty for writing a false message?"

"Yes, sir," I said. "I'm to get a general court-martial."

And [illegible] April Fool's joke. Sweeney stormed. "Y[illegible] [illegible] to give you a [illegible] to strangle the guy out. I want to [illegible] him."

He [illegible] charge the book for $7,200, the [illegible] of the message [illegible] to be [illegible] of [illegible]. [illegible] and [illegible] back a [illegible]. They go to the [illegible] and get money back on these tickets. They go to the [illegible] and [illegible] about the joke [illegible] and get me off the hook with him."

"Aye, aye, sir," I said.

He looked at his watch. "It's now ten to [illegible]. I'll give you until [illegible] morning to straighten things out [illegible] before I [illegible] court martial proceed."

I got [illegible] the gig and [illegible]. The [illegible] private agent [illegible] had a [illegible] who had offered him $18,000 for the house. The joke was as dead as [illegible].

"Look," I said after an hour of [illegible], "call the the captain's house for the [illegible] of this book. I'll pay you the extra $800 profit out of my own pocket. I haven't got it in cash, but I'll send you 50 bucks a

month." Then I explained the situation in full. I told him that if I was court-martialed, I certainly would be [illegible]. It was worth 800 bucks to me to get out of this [illegible] unscathed.

[illegible] said the agent wearily. "Here's a receipt [illegible]." I [illegible] the deed around to the [illegible]. I [illegible] the guy with gratitude [illegible] the steps and got a taxi.

A [illegible] of the steamship lines offices [illegible] it was against rules to [illegible] short notice.

"[illegible] office Mr. Gonzales."

"Where [illegible]?"

[illegible] a cocktail party [illegible] Hotel [illegible] Mr. [illegible] is looking for [illegible]."

[illegible] at the Polo [illegible] "Yes," he [illegible]. "Mr. Gonzales, I have an important [illegible] for you."

[illegible] people with [illegible] and in evening dress [illegible].

"[illegible]," said Mr. Gonzales then. "I'll speak with [illegible] out."

"[illegible]," said the [illegible]. "Impossible." [illegible] who had been refused. This At [illegible] my friend Bessie [illegible] center of [illegible] Monte Burton.

"What are you doing on the Appleby?" she asked. I told her.

"[illegible] an extra invitation at home," she [illegible] pushing me into her car.

At home Bessie found the invitation and dragged [illegible] brother John's [illegible] clothes. John [illegible] and is six [illegible] and I'm five [illegible] and weigh 150. We turned up the pants legs about a foot and pinned

them in place. There was so much excess cloth around my waist that we had to take it over — a pleated effect. The notch of the trousers hung a few inches above my knees, the seat flopped about my thighs like an elephant's potato sack. The coat hung to my knees.

Within a half hour we were back at the store. The attendant at Brooks's stared now at me in Everyone gaped, then laughed. The assistant manager politely informed me that enlisted men were not allowed to mix with the guests. Meanwhile, from Mr. Gonzales I had his Marine, who had stolen our money, saying it was okay to give a refund on the four tickets.

It was now after ten and I wasn't seen the admiral yet. I changed back into uniform and moved over to his office, a good two miles away. The steward who came to the door said the admiral had turned in. His orders were that he wanted to be disturbed unless it was something really important.

"Can the admiral," I said, drawing the steward's battleship to my one gold stripe.

Immediately the admiral, pausing in his false teeth and straightening his pajamas, came down. When I told him who I was, he began to cackle like a French chef hitting a fowl. He showed me out from room to room, rushed into the next room and picked up the phone.

"You may now go back to the *Appleby*," he said when he returned. "I've sent a message to Commander Sweeney informing him the message to Wall Street has been cancelled and suggested to him appropriate disciplinary action for you."

"Thank you, sir," I said, salluting. It was two in the morning when I got back aboard the *Appleby*. The captain was up and waiting.

"The admiral sent me a message. I know what happened there. How did you make out on the other deal?"

I handed him the receipt for his house and showed him the note from Mr. Gonzales authorizing the return of his steamer money.

"Okay," he said in a kindly manner. Then, "Did

the admiral mention the disciplinary action we've decided to take with you?"

"No, sir."

He handed me some papers. "These," he said, "are the orders for your next duty station. I've signed them. You'll be leaving this morning. It is necessary that they get to the mail to-day. The executive officer has just looked them over, and found them in good form. But as they concern you, I want you to read them for accuracy."

"Aye, aye, sir," I said, reaching for what looked like my death warrant.

"The captain will sign." The visitor who chaut will take them to the fleet post office. I'll now [illegible] a look of shock he papers in the way [illegible] he acts about [illegible] wrong you have [illegible] to change them. Now, [illegible] he [illegible] the [illegible] and stamped envelopes to the papers. The [illegible] papers [illegible] lower [illegible] recommendation [illegible] the sea. We [illegible] way I searched [illegible] which [illegible] under the heat [illegible] the papers on the [illegible] and [illegible]

The [illegible] of these orders [illegible] the [illegible] South [illegible] and [illegible] Mr. Gonzales [illegible] for the addresses and [illegible] as they were [illegible]

"Thank you for your [illegible] in the big sailing [illegible] on my Communications Officer. He went for the gag hook, line and sinker. I've speculated some about [illegible] but [illegible] me, this is the best April Fools' joke I ever pulled.

Sincerely,

J. J. Sweeney
Commanding Officer
USS *Appleby*

When I was in charge of the control tower at a small airfield [illegible] the air traffic was unusually heavy one afternoon. Two sorts and fighters were [illegible] the tower by radio requesting permission to land or take off. In the interval the tower operator [illegible] which he used to signal flashes to them [illegible] green lights from the tower were having a little [illegible]

[illegible] with [illegible] the pilot of one small plane [illegible] was [illegible] off by engine [illegible] in his [illegible] and wheels [illegible] His [illegible] approach paid off — he promptly got his green light.

—Frank C. Byrd

When I was a clerk in an information office at Pearl Harbor I received a call from a [illegible] who wanted to locate her last boy friend, a sailor. She said she had met him on Guam and thought [illegible] and she had been heartbroken when he was [illegible] to Fleet Hanger. She [illegible] know his ship or rate or which base so she [illegible] exasperated I asked: "Do you know his name?"

"No," she replied, "but I'd recognize it if I heard it."

—Anne Kelly

A friend and I were discussing the behavior of today's young people. "I certainly think the boys today are better behaved and more [illegible] than they were a few years ago," I said. "For example, our house is right next to the air base you know, and when we first moved in I couldn't go out in the yard without being whistled at by all the young airmen. But the boys stationed there now go right on about their business when I appear."

"When did you move into your house?" my friend asked.

"About 2 years ago," I answered innocently.

"[illegible] Are you quite sure," she asked, "that it's the boys who have changed?"

—Harriet A. Tenkslay

Our base commander had been receiving complaints about the behavior of [illegible] one morning he noticed that [illegible] came to [illegible] Sunday [illegible] the [illegible] stations he [illegible] and then. "Gentlemen, we have been complaints about our rowdy behavior while [illegible] on the bus. If this sort of [illegible] keeps up, [illegible] to bring it to the attention of your parents. [illegible] would [illegible] me to do that, would [illegible]?" From the rear of the hushed bus came the quick reply: "No, Daddy."

—Stephen V. Harvey

The three cocktail lounges nearest the Pentagon in Washington are known as the Chief Joints of Staff.

—Carmen Phillips, quoted by Art Ryon in Los Angeles Times

We doctors' wives always say that we have to be married before we can [illegible] sympathy from our husbands. For some months during the war my hus-

band was the so[illegible] medical officer assigned to the U. S. Naval Training School at Fort [illegible] [illegible] duties [illegible] preventive medicine and care of the sick. Hurrying to prepare supper one evening I stopped an orderly at [illegible] of the Officers with a [illegible] Mr. [illegible] was in the kitchen at the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] have [illegible] first [illegible] at Fort [illegible]

—Albert Murphy Mathews

A [illegible] large [illegible] post west of the river about to be relieved [illegible] happy at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] hole in the [illegible] and [illegible] hole. As we gonna make [illegible]

No [illegible] Chuck. I promised [illegible] ried to inspect [illegible] hy-five hole [illegible]

[illegible]

O[illegible] by the arrival of [illegible] red The [illegible] [illegible] of some [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]

Dorothy Stott

A [illegible]

Mildred W. Beall

A [illegible] of the local [illegible] It read: [illegible] change of duty station. Have [illegible]

—Lt. Robert P. Darden, Jr.

At the San Juan Power Plant [illegible]

VACANCY

W. J. Dale

W[illegible]

Roger K. Dean

O[illegible]

B. L. Rose

M[illegible]

[illegible] Thank you

Kenneth H. Taylor

W[illegible] 1948.

Lt. Col. Robert E. Jones

A [illegible] seaman of World War II has recalled [illegible] His [illegible]

[illegible] straight [illegible] pounds [illegible] story. Finally [illegible] of [illegible] tears [illegible] his [illegible]

[illegible] the chaplain replied. "You [illegible] over that."

The Rev. John B. Arnold

We were a typical group of soldiers and army families waiting to board a transport plane. A [illegible] appeared at the loading gate to announce the [illegible] saying, "Unaccompanied pregnant women will [illegible] the plane first. Please step forward as I call [illegible]

The little military stewardess had no sooner [illegible] the names of two women than a pompous colonel [illegible] he de- [illegible] are to board first. As [illegible] officer [illegible] you to check me onto [illegible]

"Certainly Colonel," coolly replied the stewardess. Then, as the colonel strutted by, she turned [illegible] pregnant [illegible]

—*True* (Contributor's name withheld)

[illegible]

[illegible] D. D. Nelson, J.

A [illegible] reported [illegible] conditions.

He [illegible] took off. His [illegible]

[illegible] when [illegible] he [illegible] "[illegible] take off [illegible] The [illegible] A [illegible] evitable [illegible] "What are [illegible] you going to do?" [illegible] snapped.

"I've just bailed out, sir," was the reply.

—Don Nuell

[illegible]

Mrs. Lawrence Curtis

[illegible] Mr. [illegible] was [illegible] the [illegible] Bar [illegible] [illegible] three [illegible]

—Charlton Ogburn, Jr. *The Marauders* (Harper), quoted by Maurice Dolbier in *New York Herald Tribune*

A [illegible] its collective favorite. My friend who is on [illegible] most like to sweep with [illegible]

Sweeney was a "sick-bay sailor," first class. Hardly a day went by that he didn't show up with a sore throat or aching back. He had quite a reputation with the medics and corpsmen.

Sweeney was good-hearted, nevertheless, and when I had to go to sick bay with an infected foot he carried my gear for me. It was raining, so he stuffed my bag of laundry under his raincoat.

We no sooner got in sight of the sick bay than I heard a corpsman roar out to the doctor on duty [illegible]

—Ken Kidd in *True*

A [illegible] to learn a trade, see the world, become part of a [illegible] "TEMPORARY INSANITY"

—Earl W. Ramsdell

T[illegible] the troopship were [illegible] the [illegible] fell [illegible] "Has anyone seen my hand-grenade pin?"

—R. O. B.

When a [illegible] for his [illegible] Well, [illegible] said. What do you say to [illegible]

T. M. Watson

A [illegible] who [illegible] answers properly [illegible] formation [illegible] a ten-minute lecture with these words:

If you [illegible] expect to become pilots you'd better [illegible] understood that on the next flight you will have to stay with [illegible] happens is thus clearly understood.

[illegible] the next formation flight the engine of the [illegible] and he was forced to glide [illegible] accompanied [illegible] student pilot who, despite his [illegible] stood with him wing-to-wing all the way down.

—Harold L. Craven in *The Airman*

As First Lord of the Admiralty early in World War I, Winston Churchill was [illegible] a warship which he had [illegible] of changes in [illegible] impressed. The very [illegible] of the house of [illegible] was taken aback when Churchill said, "I suppose you know the [illegible] as the men in [illegible]."

[illegible] "They also asked me first [illegible] the best [illegible] the [illegible] of this ship."

Arthur [illegible]

[illegible]

Arthur [illegible]

[illegible] Anne Seaman [illegible]

Pass enough in *The Daily Telegraph* [illegible]

A [illegible] have [illegible] but a [illegible] As the [illegible] of the [illegible] days.

Capt. Robert W. McNitt

A [illegible] was walking on the grass was [illegible] The [illegible] were [illegible] offense and he was wearing a [illegible] The [illegible] of the [illegible] Keep Off the [illegible] Fine. He [illegible] a sign that worked. It read: SHORT CUT TO KP.

Marvin J. Gilliam

A couple of sailors having over for a day or two [illegible] decided to go to church. Knowing no [illegible] they agreed to [illegible] safe by picking out a [illegible] and following in [illegible] of them and doing whatever he did.

[illegible] the preacher made a special [illegible] the sailors [illegible] go to the [illegible] of laughter from the [illegible]

When the service was over and they were greeted by the pastor at the door, the [illegible] asked what the [illegible] happened. [illegible] the pastor. "I was [illegible] the [illegible] of the ship to stand."

Angie Cordero

[illegible] taken [illegible] and I was [illegible] a [illegible] people [illegible] in [illegible] ignoring such [illegible] areas as [illegible] the interesting [illegible] had carefully [illegible] the blank space. [illegible] gave him a passing grade on the spot.

Edd B. Rountree

When my husband was transferred to [illegible] from [illegible] Air Transport Sec[illegible] [illegible] Washington [illegible] Washington [illegible] [illegible] Washington [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I [illegible]

Rev. Donald C. Beasley

D[illegible]

Robert T. Beasley

A group of veterans were swapping experiences [illegible] lights-out [illegible] when the conversation turned to the distinctive sound made by the German 88 [illegible]

[illegible] sergeant [illegible] 88's [illegible] headed for the [illegible] but [illegible] couldn't get out of [illegible] The [illegible] and [illegible] the 88 [illegible] closer [illegible]

[illegible] darkness ward [illegible] What [illegible]

[illegible] anybody [illegible] sleeping bag on [illegible]

—Edward P. Reilly

W[illegible] hill [illegible] the [illegible] Ch[illegible]

[illegible] I asked him where he [illegible] was [illegible] I was going to [illegible]

Donald Tracy

O[illegible] France [illegible] were made on the camouflage of [illegible] or the [illegible] area, or camou[illegible] a high place in the general's heart.

[illegible] men [illegible] As we con[illegible] on the menus of his [illegible] he [illegible] to stave off and promptly disappeared into the camouflaged kitchen sump pit.

—Maj. Lawrence M. Vroom

The instructor to ground crew mechanics, explaining a [illegible] procedure on the [illegible] an intricate [illegible] that [illegible] the culture processed. Soon the board was covered with a [illegible] [illegible] Cure [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] to [illegible] questions [illegible] The [illegible] [illegible] quick asked

Any questions

[illegible] spoke up [illegible] was [illegible]

—Hugh Stewart

[illegible] from the [illegible] after [illegible] [illegible] Mr [illegible] What [illegible] [illegible] Mr [illegible] Mew

My [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] from Rita

[illegible] wrote You sure don't need these [illegible]

Inside the box were my crutches

—George Antonuck

Was a sailor who discovered that a small muscle in the eye can pick up a few grown up

—North Bartlesville Sailor Newsletter

During basic training my husband wasn't very successful in following the rules and regulations set up for enlisted men by the exasperated inspecting officer. This is the time when a [illegible] have not been very short properly but [illegible] extra dresses hoping to make [illegible] but all in no avail. Tell me do you have any excuses

Yes sir I have said my husband answered

Now [illegible] to go home [illegible] follow your orders. Just what would [illegible]

[illegible] was the reply I'd send them to their mother

—Ruth Wade Justice

The [illegible] at our [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

enthralling message: "Hi there, sweet. It's Bill. Honey, I certainly miss you. I got your letter and it gave me a thrill . . . "

Suddenly a woman appeared at the door, looked in doubtfully, but went away. I continued to listen, enchanted — it was almost like sitting on the sofa back home, holding hands.

The woman reappeared. This time, after a moment's hesitation, she said, "I wonder if you realize this record is on the public-address system."

—Mary Jane Rogers

One of my duties as battalion mess officer in Germany was to check the daily menu against the cook's work sheet.

One day when scrambled eggs were on the breakfast menu, the cook's work sheet listed powdered eggs, followed by the note, "Add 1 broken eggshell." Perplexed, I asked the mess sergeant why he was feeding the troops eggshells with their scrambled eggs.

"Just using a little psychology, sir," he replied. "The boys don't go for these powdered eggs at all, and when they bite into a piece of eggshell they think they're eating the real McCoy. There's hardly any waste nowadays."

—Kingsford D. Bigelow

A British brigadier, called back to wartime service, once boasted to Prime Minister Winston Churchill: "I'm 68, and I can do anything my men can. I don't drink, don't smoke, always take care of myself. I'm 100 percent fit."

"I," said the prime minister, "am also 68. But I do smoke, do drink, never take care of myself. And I am 200 percent fit!"

—Arthur Krock

We had been flying over the South Pacific for about three hours on a wartime mission when a small island appeared on our starboard wing. The intercom crackled: "Turret to pilot. Investigate objects on beach at two o'clock."

There was a moment's silence. Then the pilot's voice snapped over the intercom: "Any idiot can plainly see that the objects are merely native girls bathing in the surf."

From the turret the voice sighed softly back: "I know . . . I know!"

—D. B. McNeely

A veteran who had served with the Military Police was trying to convince another vet of the merits of his branch of the service. "After all," said the ex-MP, "we suffered more casualties than any other branch."

"And why shouldn't you have," sniffed the other vet, "with enemies on both sides?"

—Harold Helfer

A young sailor phoned his station and requested an extension of his pass, but was told to return immediately. "But I can't," he protested. "There are ten of us at this party, and we're having too much fun for me to break it up."

"How come your leaving the party will break it up?" snapped the petty officer at the station.

"Well, you see, sir," said the sailor, "nine of us are girls!"

—Maurice Peacock, Jr.

In our B-17 we were returning from a target over Germany, when my rookie waist gunner on the port side cut loose with his 50-caliber machine guns. Looking out the window, I saw a lone German fighter flying parallel to us but at a very respectable distance. Again, the twin 50's clattered. I could see the tracer bullets falling far short of their target. I called the new gunner on the intercom: "Hey, fella, that plane is way out of range."

Amid another burst from the guns, he replied, "Yes-sir, I know, and that's where I intend to keep him."

—V. G. Ibert

An inquisitive woman was questioning my brother, home on leave, about his military experiences. She asked him concerning his rank, medals if any, length of service and so forth, winding up with, "You are with the army, aren't you?"

"No, ma'am," he replied gravely. "I've been agin 'em all the way."

—Mary Peters

The various department supervisors were reporting to the admiral on the status of current projects at the naval shipyard. The supervisor in charge of overhauling a submarine announced that the submarine could put to sea for diving trials the following Monday. Knowing that repairs to many of the ship's vital systems were far from completion the sub's engineering officer, a lieutenant, jumped to his feet.

"But that's impossible, sir!" he exclaimed.

"Young man," retorted the admiral, "can you give me one reason why your ship will not be able to dive?"

"No, sir, I can't," he replied, "but I can give you a hundred reasons why she won't be able to surface!"

—Lt. Raymond E. Engle

A veteran, who had served as an air gunner in World War II, had nothing but contempt for the screeching, flaming jets of the modern air force. One day he watched a T-33 jet trainer roar in for a landing. When the pilot climbed out he seemed troubled. He walked around the jet, peered under it and over it and even knocked on the cowling around the exhaust opening. The veteran walked over for a closer look. "What's the matter, son?" he inquired mildly. "Pilot light gone out?"

—Bob King

During a ship's dance, a young Royal Marine couldn't keep his eyes off a pin worn by his partner, which depicted a cluster of naval signaling flags. "I see you're admiring my brooch," she said. "It was a present from my husband and the flags mean, 'I Love You.'"

Knowing that the word "love" wasn't in the naval signal manual, the Royal Marine turned to his manual as soon as he got back to his quarters. What the flags actually signaled, he discovered, was: "Permission to lay alongside."

—*The Globe and Laurel*, (Royal Marines, Eastney Barracks)

It was one of those black jungle nights in the Solomons, and Japanese bombers had slipped in undetected. The exploding bombs shocked us out of our sleep, and we lit out for cover in a nearby foxhole. Originally intended for three men, the foxhole was suddenly stocked with eight soldiers. The eerie quiet that followed the first bombing run was broken by steady cursing from the bottom of the pile. Finally the voice gasped, "You guys are crushin' me!"

There was a moment of silence and then from the top of the heap came a whisper, "You want to trade?"

—B. F. Nordberg